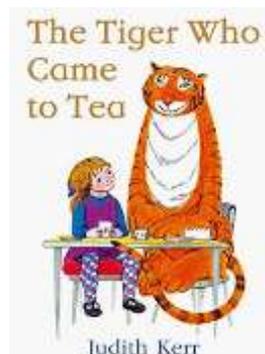


## Book Recommendations by our Reception Teachers

Mrs Smith (Head of School at Holland Road) and Mr Wolf 

### The Tiger who came to Tea



I can't really remember many of the stories I enjoyed reading when I was at Primary school as it was SUCH A LONG TIME AGO.

Stories that I can remember and mean a great deal to me are the ones I read to my own children and Mr Wolf when they were little. Stories I have read to my classes and at assemblies over the years also stay with me long after I have read them. This story, of a seemingly ordinary little girl on a seemingly ordinary day, always brings back wonderful memories. It also contains one of my favourite features: an unexpected ending.

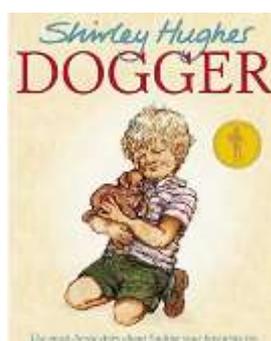
Sophie lives in house just like I lived in the 1970s when suddenly a tiger knocks on the door. The tiger is very gentle and has nice manners but he eats all the food, 'all of daddy's beer' and, my favourite line, 'all the water in the tap.' Can you imagine?

Right until the end we are left guessing if the tiger is real or in Sophie's imagination. What do you think?

Like the best stories, the reader is left to make up their own mind.

I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

### Dogger



Another story that my own children, the children of West Hove and Mr Wolf adore. Like all the work of the author Shirley Hughes, it's a very simple story of an ordinary family doing ordinary things like going to the park and going to school. But like many simple stories it has lots of important messages, messages that match our golden rules of being kind, gentle and sharing. These rules help us in school and also help us in as we become grown-ups. But it's also terrific fun and has lots of tension as Dave's favourite toy, Dogger, is lost. Find out how he gets his beloved Dogger back!

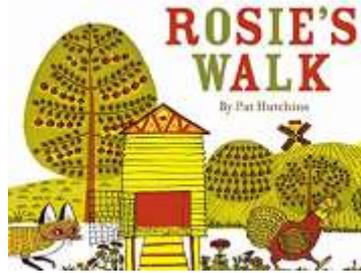
Most of us have (or had) a favourite toy and we all know the despair of losing our treasures. I especially like the illustrations which show a loving and much loved household with all the untidiness and busy-ness of family life.

Mr Wolf and I think grown-ups will love this as much as you. Woof!

## Reception

Miss Kemp-Harris (Clownfish class teacher)

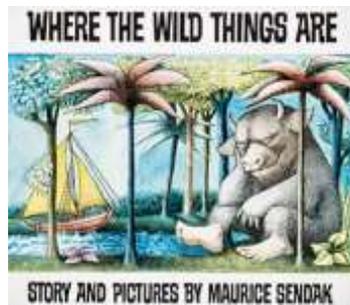
### Rosie's Walk



This book has a very special place in my heart, as it was the first book I was introduced to when I was learning to become a teacher. My teacher taught me a trick with this book that I would like to share with you. The first time you read this book, you are not allowed to look at the pictures. Try to read just the words (or have a grown up read them to you). It seems like a very simple story and one where not very much happens at all! Once you have finished, go back to the beginning and this time look at the pictures too. My class always loves this part as you will find, as they have, that there is a whole different story happening within the images on the page!

Each page is covered with the most beautiful drawings. The limited colour palette and the intricate details make this a book to pore over and to treasure. There is not a single tree, bee or feather that is not covered with beautiful shapes and patterns that pop off of the page of this 60-year-old book. I love the way every other page has you on tenterhooks seeing a disaster about to happen and then laughing as the silly fox fails time and time again to catch an oblivious Rosie. I love this book because it teaches a very important lesson about just how clever picture books can be. Even when you can read all the books in a library, there is nothing quite like a picture book to cuddle up with.

### Where The Wild Things Are



When I was very little (around 4 years old), my Mumy used to take me to the library on Wednesday evenings. The village I grew up in was so small that we did not have a library and so had to drive to the next village to use theirs. I can still remember both the library and this book very clearly. I would lie on my tummy to look at the pictures closely. So close, in fact, I'm fairly sure my nose used to touch the page! I still love the pictures in this book because there are so many lines added to each shape and object to add texture and to show the light and darkness of each thing. My favourite pages in the book are ones with no words on when Max and the Wild Things are having their wild rumpus. Looking at them howling at the moon is a picture I still love to look at and share with the children in my class today.

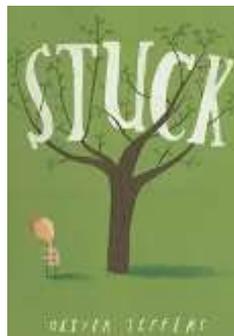
I used to find the book so exciting but also quite scary as the Wild Things were so...wild! There were also some very interesting words that made my tummy twist as they sounded very exotic such as 'tumbled', 'mischief', 'terrible' and 'gnashed'. The last page of this book is very special as it has no pictures at all and just 5 words 'and it was still hot'. It's such a simple and lovely end to the story, knowing that Max is safe and sound with someone who might be a little bit cross with him, but still loves him very much. This book was written sixty years ago, and I first looked at it thirty years ago. But to me, it is still strange, exciting, thrilling and new each time I read it. I highly recommend reading it whilst lying on your tummy with a grown up close by to help you read the words (and to hold hands if it gets too scary!).

**Georgia O’Keeffe: My First Georgia O’Keeffe (13) (Little People, Big DREAMS)**



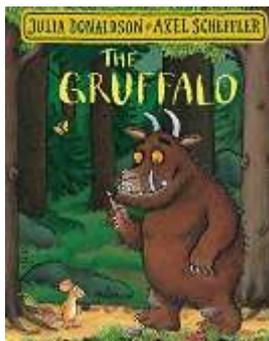
After sharing this with my class recently, I was excited about writing this review. Here is a life story of this artist, which is simplified for a young audience. Georgia was aware of the abundance of colour and texture that is present in the beautiful nature that surrounds us, even from a very young age. It was the perfect moment to show our tulips and we talked about the ways a bee would see the inside of them. We went on to draw the vibrant coloured open flowers and all had a fantastic creative afternoon. All thanks to Georgia and her life story.

**Stuck**



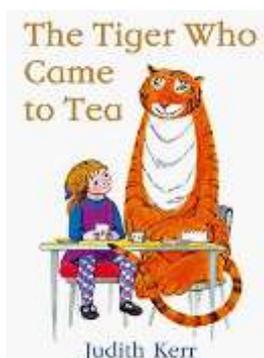
I have always loved the books written by Oliver Jeffers. He has given us so many family favourites, but STUCK is an absolute treasure to read and share with young children. It all began when Floyd got his kite stuck in a tree...The trouble *really* began when he threw a shoe up to knock the kite loose, and that got stuck too, followed by a ladder, a bucket, an orang-utan, and a whale who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. And that was just the start of things. The illustrations and text are quirky and funny. They always lead to lots of discussions with children and opportunities to extend their learning. I never tire of reading this wonderful book.

### The Gruffalo



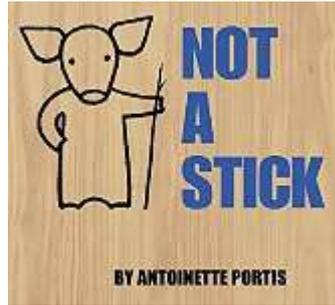
We love Julia Donaldson's books in our house, but The Gruffalo has to be a firm favourite. Lots of rhyme and repetition, so your children will love joining in with telling the story. Lots of hidden morals and fabulous illustrations. This is a story about a clever mouse who outsmarts an array of predators not to eat him. Full of lovely descriptive language and phrases, which my three year old incorporates into his day-to-day life. Such an engaging and compelling story!

### The Tiger Who Came to Tea



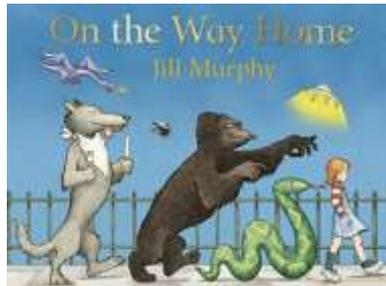
A simple yet classic story that has truly stood the test of time. This was a bedtime favourite for both my children from when they were babies, but they still love to read it now. Sophie and her mummy are about to sit down and have tea when they open the door to a big, furry, stripy tiger who ends up eating ALL the food in their house. This story is able to capture your imagination and gives lots of opportunity for questions and discussion. A light-hearted yet fun story that will be loved by all ages!

**Not a stick**



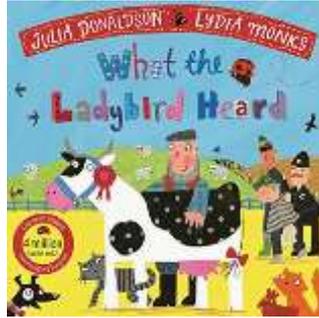
The magic of this book is in its illustrations. The little pig is asked again and again why he is holding a stick, to which they categorically respond 'It's not a stick!' with the original picture overlaid with their 'imagination' of what the stick is; a baton in a brass band, a fishing rod, a sword... This book holds a special place in my heart. The joy and potential of a simple stick is infinite! It has sparked hours of imaginative fun and joy for my own children; we love a day in the woods. However it was also one of the books I chose during a first Zoom-based story time for my class last year and we had great fun sharing our 'Not-a-stick' adventures in Seesaw. A fond memory from a challenging time.

**On the Way Home**



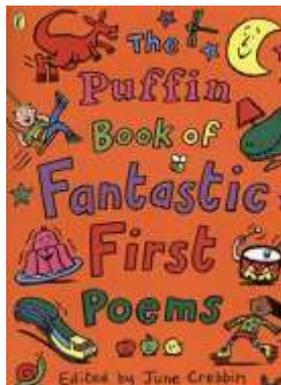
Claire has hurt her knee and is on her way home to her Mum. On the way she meets lots of friends, all of whom she tells a different story as to how she hurt her knee; wolves, crocodiles, witches and more are involved... But how did she REALLY hurt her knee? Do you believe her? I love this book as it celebrates imagination. Nobody calls Claire out on her fantastical stories and they give her strength to get back to her Mum, where she gets the comfort and love we all need when we've had a tumble.

### What the Ladybird Heard



Who doesn't love a Julia Donaldson book and I'd personally love to have her imagination and sense of rhythm and rhyme. This story is about a silent Ladybird 'who say's never a word' but who still manages to foil the plan of some crafty robbers who are out to steal the Fine Prized Cow. With repeating language and lots of animal sounds it's a great story to join in with. Some copies of this story even come with textured pages so you can follow the ladybird's path as she flies around the farm. I also love that this story helps us understand that just because we're smaller or quieter than others we can still be the hero!

### The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems



This poetry book has been a firm favourite for several years. It contains a compilation of fantastic poems from a wide range of poets. All of the poems are great to hear read aloud and many of them make you giggle. Full of illustrations and sorted into themes I'm sure there is something for everyone. One of my favourite poems found in here is one called Spaghetti, Spaghetti by Jack Prelutsky and it's an ode to one of the tastiest dinners.

**I am the seed that grew the tree**



My class loves reading the poem of the day at Snack time. A poem that recently made us smile was 'If you find a little feather' which told us that soft, tickly feathers might actually be letters to us from birds. Have you had any bird mail recently?

With each new day, we find wonderful adjectives, similes and metaphors which can inspire our own writing. It's also great to think about things in a new way, particularly those which we might think are plain or boring. Over the past few weeks, poems have made us consider questions as unusual as 'if there's a bear among the stars won't he drink up the milky way?' and 'without being wakened how does the sun rise?'. Open up a great conversation with this wonderful anthology!